

We are not in the least afraid, that our Objection will appear in the Light you would wish it to do ; and tho' you Endeavour to give an ill Impression of it, by giving it a hard Name, when you have not been able to answer it, we are inclined to think that the Resentment you have expressed, will appear to all sensible and impartial Persons (who must see and think that we could not have proceeded with more Candour in stating our Objection than in the Method we took of using your own Words without Addition, or Diminution) to have been excited by our full Detection of this very great Partiality in your Bill. But the Agents, it seems, are to employ a Clerk to assist them in their Duty ; it is very probable they will, and 'tis as certain, that if they do, they will be eased in the principal Part of their Business, that of keeping regular Accounts : But let us suppose that the Clerk of the Agents will expect a Salary equal to the Rewards given by the Bill to all the Commissioners of the Loan-Office and their Clerk, yet the Agents, when that is paid, will each of them receive more than Thirty-one Times the Reward given by your Bill to each of the Commissioners of the Loan-Office.

The Pretence you have thought of for Oppressing the Commissioners of the Loan-Office, will hardly be insisted upon to justify your Attempt to oppress his Lordship's Agent ; he is a private Officer appointed by Lord Baltimore, and paid by his Lordship out of his Revenue ; that the Services required of him, under a Penalty, would be attended with much Trouble, you cannot but suppose.

Part of several of his Lordship's Manors, and the Lands intended to be reserved for his Lordship's Use, are under Patent upon the common Terms. The Quantity under this Circumstance can't be ascertained, but with much Trouble, and some Expence.

The Duties required of the Receivers of his Lordship's Quit-Rents, in our Opinion, are so far from being compensated by the Forty Shillings Reward, that we think no Person, not compelled by the Severity of Penalties, would undertake them for Five Times that Sum ; and we are not convinced that you have any more Authority to exact, by penal Provisions, Services from the private Officers of the Proprietary, appointed by him to manage and collect his Revenue, than you have to compel the Services of the Agent or Factor of any private Person.

We have not said that the Allowance to the Commissioners of the Land Tax is extravagant, nor do we think the Commission to the Agents exceeds the Merit of their Services ; what we remarked was, that the Rewards given to the Persons who had been appointed by the Government, or employed by Lord Baltimore in the Affairs of his Revenue, were inadequate ; and by a fair Comparison, we undertook to shew, that the Bill was extremely Partial to the Persons you had assumed the Power of Nominating.

If the Office of Sheriff is more Lucrative than it ought to be, it arises from the Commission allowed for the Services he does for private Persons, and who ought therefore to be relieved by a Reduction of the Commission if it is too high : We suppose the Commission of Six *per Cent.* given to Sheriffs by Act of Assembly, was not with a View of taking from private Persons more than the Services done for them deserved, that thereby the Sheriffs might be enabled to perform Services for the Public at a less Rate than they are really (and independently considered) worth ; if such a View was entertained, it can't be defended, and such a Regulation ought to take Place as may apportion the Commission of Sheriffs to their respective Services.

Without Doubt a Sheriff (as you have observed) may execute the Office of Collector with less Trouble and Difficulty than any other Person ; but will you thence infer, that he would choose to undertake it under the Strictness you have imposed for Two *per Cent* ?

It is notorious, that if every Sheriff was rigorously to execute his Office, it would prove extremely distressing to a great Number of People ; and that every good-natured Man in this Office, is obliged to give such Indulgences to the People, as are attended with no small Risque to himself. The Salary paid by Lord Baltimore to the Sheriffs for Collecting his Quit-Rents, by which his Lordship has saved the Commission of Five *per Cent.* (and not Ten *per Cent.* as you say) has been a considerable Saving to his Lordship ; but is your Inference just, that, because the Sheriffs are his Lordship's Collectors for a Commission of Ten *per Cent.* which is more considerable than they receive from any other Person (which in no Instance exceeds Six *per Cent.*) he ought to receive only a Commission of Two *per Cent.* for executing the Duty of a Collector under your Bill, which would be attended with more Trouble and Risque : A Sheriff can hardly be liable to the Proprietary for any Rents due from his Tenants, which he had not a Security for (we mean the Land chargeable with the Rent) but that can't be said in respect of the Tax upon Chattels, which may be removed or disposed of before the Sheriff can conveniently execute.

Upon the whole, Gentlemen, tho' we will not consent to establish the Partiality introduced by your Bill, yet it is as far from our Inclination, as from our Interest, to give extravagant Rewards to any Persons who might be employed in the Execution of it, which you know would be as Burthensome to us as any other, who might be affected thereby.

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